



Eligibility Criteria for Federal Emergency Relief Funds

Federal ER funds may be approved for:

- Roadways and bridges on a Federal-aid highway
- Damaged as a direct result of an approved* natural disaster or catastrophic failure
- There must be a minimum of \$5,000 per each damage site and;
- A minimum of \$700,000 per disaster (with a maximum reimbursement cap of \$100 million per state)
- The funds must be used to restore a highway or bridge to “pre-disaster” condition. Betterments are not eligible for ER funding.
- Damage to highways must be severe, occur over a wide area, and result in unusually high expenses to the highway agency. The ER program also applies to catastrophic failures (sudden and complete failures due to an external cause) and which result in a disastrous impact on transportation services and unusually high expenses to the highway agency.

*The Governor must make an official disaster declaration.

Procedures:

1. The local public agency should contact the District Engineer as soon as possible after a disaster occurs.
2. The District Engineer should then contact the Program Management office in Lincoln where they will contact FHWA and begin the formal process to request funds.
3. The LPA (and any involved State forces) should immediately begin recording all expenses incurred in reacting to the disaster. Note equipment, labor, type and location of work performed in as much detail as possible.